

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 04570 120157Z

21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

/057 W

----- 026846

R 120044Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6148

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 4570

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AS VS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN PRESENCE IN SAIGON

REF: HONG KONG 7807

1. INFO IN REFTEL HAS BEEN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF AUSTRALIAN EXPECTATION THAT EMBASSY WILL BE REOPENED IN SAIGON IN JULY OR AUGUST. HOWEVER, EMBOFF HAD SHORT CHAT WITH JOHN STAREY JULY 11, IN COURSE OF WHICH STAREY SAID THAT HE WOULD BE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES WHENEVER AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN SAIGON REOPENED. STAREY SAID THERE WAS NO RPT NO PROSPECT THAT EMBASSY WOULD BE REOPENED IN JULY, AND HE EXPRESSED PERSONAL GUESS THAT IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT TAKE PLACE TILL MID-SEPTEMBER. HOWEVER, HE ADMITTED THAT EVEN SEPTEMBER DATE IS GUESS, BASED ON NOD AND A WINK FROM PRG SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN HANOI, AND HE FELT THIS IS NOT VERY SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE. STAREY SAID THAT AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN SAIGON WILL CONSIST OF ABOUT FIVE: HIMSELF, POLITICAL OFFICER (ROWLAND RICH), AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, AND TWO CLERICAL PERSONNEL.

2. COMMENT: STAREY, WHO WAS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN  
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PAGE 02 CANBER 04570 120157Z

TO DEPT DURING HIS TOUR AT AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON,

1962-64, IS IN DANGER OF BECOMING KNOWN AS QTE OFTEN A  
BRIDESMAIN BUT NEVER A BRIDE. END QTE HE HAD BEEN DESIG-  
NATED TO BE AUSTRALIAN CHARGE IN PHNOM PENH AFTER COM-  
MUNISTS TOOK OVER CAMBODIA BUT, IN ABSENCE OF ANY MOVEMENT  
TOWARDS PERMITTING FOREIGN MISSIONS THERE, HE HAS BEEN  
DESIGNATED AS CHARGE OF AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN SAIGON.  
HE EXPRESSED SOME QUESTION AS TO WHETHER NORTH VIETNAMESE  
COMMUNISTS, WHO ARE CLEARLY CALLING THE SHOTS IN SOUTH  
VIET-NAM, REALLY WANT PRG ESTABLISHED AND FOREIGN  
MISSIONS ALLOWED TO REOPEN IN SAIGON.  
GREEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC MISSION OPENING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 12 JUL 1975  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ellisoob  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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